

as they are noteworthy. His loyal service and sacrifices for over three decades working in the communities of Oregon are a testament to all who use and appreciate our public lands. I would like to take a moment to reflect upon Doug's career as he makes the transition to life beyond Government service.

Born in Yakima, Washington, Doug learned to speak Japanese before he spoke English because he spent time in Japan as a toddler while his father was serving in the Armed Forces. His family then moved to upstate New York where Doug gained appreciation for the outdoors at their home near the Catskill Mountains. After high school, Doug started college in Boston but the lure of the Pacific Northwest pulled him back to where he calls home.

Doug joined the Army National Guard where he served his country for 6 years. He graduated with a civil engineering degree from the University of Washington and in 1975 started his Forest Service career as a civil engineer trainee on the Willamette National Forest.

Doug's career in the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service included positions in the regional office in Portland, Oregon, and on the Malheur National Forest in John Day, Oregon. In 1986, Doug returned to the Willamette National Forest as the Assistant Forest Engineer and eventually was promoted to the Forest Engineer. In the 1990s, Doug was part of an international team that traveled to Indonesia for 3 or 4 weeks per year to train Indonesian foresters to design and build environmentally sensitive roads. He retires as the Zone Engineer for the Willamette, Siuslaw, and Mt. Hood National Forests, as well as the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area.

Early in his career, Doug was instrumental in developing and implementing new forest road designs that were efficient, cost effective, and more environmentally sensitive. Doug also played a significant leadership role in bringing together research science and engineering to improve hydrologic function and fish passage on forest roads and culverts. In the last several years, Doug has worked tirelessly to enhance the facilities of the Forest Service. He has forged new partnerships and inspired innovation and creativity to reduce costs and improve the vital facilities for the entire Pacific Northwest Region. In my own district, Doug was responsible for initiating a partnership to build an interagency center to house the new offices for the Forest Service, the BLM, and the Oregon Military Department. His efforts helped save tax payers millions of dollars in facilities costs.

Among Doug's numerous and exemplary accomplishments, none are more evident than the relationships he has built and his commitment to others that he tirelessly displays. Doug has touched so many people both in and outside the Forest Service. His caring for people has resulted in immeasurable benefits to the people of Oregon and our Nation.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor for me to present these credentials of Doug MacDonald to the House of Representatives today. It is clear through all of his accomplishments that he has dedicated himself to furthering the benefits we enjoy on public lands. All of his actions reflect a true leader with a sense of purpose, commitment, and conscience.

As Doug departs from public service, I ask my colleagues to join me in delivering an appreciative tribute from a grateful nation, and best wishes to him and his family for a productive and rewarding retirement.

## HONORING MANUEL ESCONTRIAS ON HIS RETIREMENT

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2008*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Manuel Escontrias on announcing his retirement from Exxon-Mobil, after 38 years of service. Mr. Escontrias, a long time Baytonian, served his community for 6 years as a District 3 city councilman, 6 years as a Goose Creek school board trustee and as a Lee College regent for 1 year.

Mr. Escontrias holds a bachelor's degree in science from Texas A&M and a master's degree from Pepperdine University. In 1968, Mr. Escontrias went to work for the Exxon-Mobil Chemical Plant as the first Hispanic engineer at the Baytown complex.

In the 1980s, while with Exxon-Mobil, Mr. Escontrias helped develop and build the Exxon Coal Liquefaction Plant (ECLP), was involved in the biggest expansion in the company's history, and was part of the Exxon-Mobil Process/Risk Management Group. Through his 40 years as a Baytonian, Mr. Escontrias has been involved with many local groups including the United Way, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Lakewood Civic Association, and many more. For his involvement in the community, Mr. Escontrias was awarded the Henry B. Gonzalez Leadership Award.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize Mr. Manuel Escontrias, for his service to Exxon-Mobil and the city of Baytown, and I congratulate him on the announcement of his retirement.

## HONORING DETECTIVE KENT HAWS

### HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2008*

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Tulare County Sheriff's Detective Kent Haws, who, at the age of 38, sacrificed his life in the line of duty so others may live.

Detective Haws honorably served our Nation in the United States Army and subsequently went on to serve his community as a member of the Tulare County Sheriff's Department.

After spending time overseeing local prisoners, he was posted to a community officer position covering the Porterville area. His talents and commitment to duty were quickly recognized with an appointment to the prestigious Sheriff's Tactical Personnel Unit. In this capacity, he led his team in tactical responses to drug cartel activities in our Nation's forests and parks.

Detective Haws' commitment to his community was proven last December when he fearlessly confronted a suspicious individual on a back road of our farming community. That confrontation ended with Detective Haws' making the ultimate sacrifice for his family and his community. His true act of heroism will only be known between himself and his God.

Those of us that he left behind will forever remember his brave actions that day. His heroics deserve a place in history on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington. This memorial contains a fitting quote that sums up Detective Haws' life—"In Valor—There is Hope".

Detective Haws, a devoted husband, and a loving father, is survived by his wife Francis and three wonderful sons Dominik, Nicholas and Evan.

I ask that my colleagues join me in solemn tribute to Detective Kent Haws, whose actions undoubtedly saved others.

## HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FELD FAMILY OWNERSHIP OF THE RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS

### HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2008*

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Feld Family, who, for forty years have preserved the legacy of the circus and provided Americans with quality family entertainment. On November 11, 1967, Irvin Feld fulfilled a life long dream by purchasing the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus, which for years made its winter home in Sarasota, Florida. Quickly, Irvin Feld made changes to modernize the show and ushered in the era of modern American entertainment.

An astute promoter, Irvin Feld designed a new two-year tour system for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey. He purchased the Circus Williams and created a second unit of Ringling Bros. equal in size, scope, and quality to the first. The second unit showcased the incredible talents of Gunther Gebel-Williams, who captivated American audiences for 30 years.

Just like the great Barnum, Feld devised national advertising campaigns and creative public relations, to reinstate the Ringling circus as America's living treasure. It is not surprising that Irvin Feld was dubbed "The Greatest Showman on Earth."

To save the art of clowning from extinction, Irvin Feld founded the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College in 1968. Originally located in Venice, Florida, then relocated to Baraboo, Wisconsin and finally, Sarasota, Florida it was the world's first and only "Clown College."

In 1970, Feld's son, Kenneth, joined the organization and was made a co-producer in 1973. When Irvin Feld suddenly died on September 6, 1984, Kenneth Feld immediately assumed control and has surpassed the level of entertainment excellence set by his father and other legendary showmen before him. Expanding the circus, he instituted a third unit that travels all across America.

Today, Kenneth Feld is the largest provider of live action family entertainment in the world. The Feld legacy continues through the third generation with Kenneth Feld's daughters, Nicole and Alana, who work to maintain the high quality, family-focused productions that have been the hallmark of the "Greatest Show on Earth."